

60

BROOKSVALE PARK

Hamden, CT

Some time between 1856 and 1860, the Town of Hamden leased Enos Brooks' farm on Brooksvale Avenue for use as a "poor farm". In 1860 Enos Brooks died and willed the farm to the town with a life lease for his wife Roxana, for the sum of \$100.00 annually. For a period of time between 1860 and 1880 Roxana did not live in the farmhouse. She returned in 1880 and died on the farm shortly thereafter and is buried at the Central Burying Ground. In 1947, the park officially became known as Brooksvale Park. This name obviously comes from the land - Brooks - and a term for a small valley that encompasses the park - a who lives on site who manages and coordinates all activities and maintenance.

In 2003, the Friends of Brookvale Park was founded to assist in preserving the park and its trails. The trail system has many special features. A geologic feature called a drumlin is located near the northern end of the blue trail. A drumlin is a mound created by the piling up of glacial till around a knob of bedrock. There are also glacial erratics in the park. These are large rocks deposited on the landscape by melting glaciers. Erratics are located behind the duck pond at the trailhead of the Violet trail, and the on the trail west of the Picnic Pavilion. The "hidden pond" is above the Veteran's Memorial Building on the White Trail and formed by a man-made dam on the Hickory Brook. There are stone walls along the trails in the park, reminders of the days when Brooksvale Park was active farmland. The Farmington Canal is directly adjacent to the Park.



Photo by Carrie Gazda, Hamden Parks & Recreation

Since 2000, the Town of Hamden and the Department of Parks & Recreation have held the Annual Brooksvale Festival that highlights the beautiful park and the opportunities for both recreation and education in this fabulous outdoor environment. The Festival is held each Autumn. Music, nature crafts, CT Department of Environmental Protection displays, hayrides, and great food are just some of the highlights of the Festival.

Directions and Parking:

Brooksvale Park is located just off Whitney Avenue (Route 10) in northern Hamden near the Cheshire town line. Take a left onto Brooksvale Avenue. Follow Brooksvale Avenue about a mile until you see signs for parking on the left.

Permitted Activities:

Dog are allowed leashed. Please pick up all animal waste.

This project made possible through a grant from the National Recreational Trails Program, the Federal Highway Administration, and the Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection.



For more information about this location, contact:

Town of Hamden
Parks and Recreation Department
(203) 287-2579

South Central Regional Council of Governments

127 Washington Avenue, 4th Floor West
North Haven, CT 06473

Phone: (203) 234-7555
Fax: (203) 234-9850
E-mail: trails@scrcog.org

BROOKSVALE PARK

Hamden, Connecticut

0 0.05 0.1 0.2 Miles

CHESHIRE

Brooksvale Ave

Mount San

Hickory Brook

Farmington Canal

P



Town Boundary



Water Bodies



Open Space - All Types



Wetlands

Trail

Rivers and Streams

Interstate or Parkway

State Route

Streets